



# Pax Christi Healthline

April 2008

**This is the sixth edition on the Health Cabinet Ministries to acquaint you with its ministries and its members. This month's article is from Dee (Dorothy) Thatcher, who has been Coordinator of the BeFriender Program for over four years.**

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Parish Friends,

BeFriender Ministry is a lay pastoral care program. Specially trained lay persons enter into caring relationships with others at times of special need by visiting and being with them bringing emotional and spiritual support. BeFrienders accept people as they are without telling them how they ought to be and listen with compassion without giving advice. We allow others to make their own decisions without trying to decide for them. There is no counseling or advice giving in BeFriending but rather we strive to be a listening presence to those we befriend.

I have been a member of Pax Christi since Easter of 1998. I was not very active in my Protestant Church, but did become involved at Assisi Heights in 1994. I came to love the Franciscan values and started attending Mass there on a regular basis. Unfortunately, I could not understand much of it so started RCIA in the fall of 1997 not with any idea of joining the Catholic Church, but just to learn more about it. I loved it so much I did make the decision to join the Catholic Church and did so Easter of 1998. I am also a Cojourner with the Franciscan Community and still active at Assisi Heights.

I am a retired Social Worker for Mayo Medical Center currently working at several part time jobs. I work part time at Charter House as a Social Work technician and one day a week I am an administrative assistant at the Integrated Wellness Center. I also spend time helping my son Darren and his wife Becky with multiple rental properties they own. While that work is not always the most glamorous, it is wonderful quality time together. My family and friends mean more to me than anything else so I maximize my time with them whether working or playing together.

Peace to you all,

Dee (Dorothy) Thatcher, Coordinator  
BeFrienders

Franciscan University, Steubenville, Ohio, will be sponsoring a Catholic Youth Conference at the Mayo Civic Center July 18-20. There is a need for doctors, nurses, EMT's and other health personnel to provide First Aid for the youth attending the conference. Our Pax youth group will be attending this conference. If you can help, call Allison Meisheid at 282-6415 or email her at [allisonmeisheid@hotmail.com](mailto:allisonmeisheid@hotmail.com). You will have an opportunity to attend Mass during the weekend.

Nurses will be taking blood pressures at the Health Fair downstairs on Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup> after all the Masses. At the blood pressure station, there will be opportunity for nurses in the parish to sign up for the times they would like to take blood pressures during the upcoming months.



**Pax Christi Health Fair**  
**Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup> - downstairs 8:30-12:15 Noon**

Hospice

Eldercare      Childhood Development

Natural Family Planning      Personal Hygiene

Military Ministry      Advance Directives

Bicycle Safety      Home Safety

Home Health Care      Fire Prevention

Prayer shawl Ministry      Homebound Ministry

Palliative Care      BeFrienders

Gang Awareness      Nutrition

Adolescent Mental Health      Riverseasons Therapies

Cancer Screening      Autism Awareness

Fall Prevention      Dental Hygiene

Blood Pressures

**Come, explore, and learn  
 from community health fair  
 providers and about health  
 cabinet ministries.**

**Please bring your questions.  
 There will be people at each  
 station to provide  
 information and handouts.  
 Seek out all the offerings.**

**We will look forward to  
 seeing you there.**